

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 10/618,653

Attorney Docket No. Q76188

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A fuse belt adapted for automatic assembling a plurality of fuse elements to an electric junction box, comprising:

a plurality of fuse elements, each of which includes

a pair of flat terminal pieces interconnected by a fusible part, and

an insulating housing in which at least said fusible part is accommodated; and

a coupling part to on which respective ends of said flat terminal pieces of said fuse elements are unitarily ~~coupled~~ formed so as to be aligned along said coupling part, wherein said coupling part and said flat terminal pieces are unitarily formed from a single plate material.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A fuse assembling method comprising the steps of:

integrally forming by pressing a plurality of fuse elements, each of which includes a pair of flat terminal pieces interconnected by a fusible part, and a coupling part to which said flat terminal pieces of said fuse elements are coupled, so that said fuse elements are aligned along said coupling part;

attaching an insulating housing so as to cover said fusible part to each of said fuse elements; and

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separating the flat terminal pieces of one of said fuse elements from said coupling part by cutting so as to provide a fuse constituted by one of said fuse element covered with said insulating housing; and

mounting said fuse to a fuse mounting part in an electric junction box.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A fuse assembling method according to claim 2, wherein after said flat terminal pieces of said fuse element are separated from said coupling part, said fuses are subjected to a conduction inspection, and only qualified fuses are mounted to said fuse mounting parts of said electric junction box.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A fuse assembling method according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of said fuse elements are separated from said coupling part successively, whereby fuses are mounted to fuse mounting parts in the electric junction boxes, continuously.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A fuse assembling method according to claim 1, wherein inner edges and upper edges of said pair of flat terminal pieces of each fuse element are covered with said insulating housing.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A fuse belt comprising a plurality of fuses and a coupling part that is unitary to the fuses, wherein each of said fuses includes a pair of terminal pieces and a fusible part connecting said pair of terminal pieces and an insulating housing covering the fusible part, and said fuses are coupled to said coupling part so as to be aligned

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along said coupling part, wherein removal of said coupling part results in said plurality of fuses
~~elements~~ being physically separated from each other.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A fuse belt according to claim 6, wherein said
terminal pieces, fusible part and said coupling part are from a single plate material in a pressing
process.

Claim 8 (original): A fuse belt according to claim 7, wherein a fuse capacity of said
fuse is set by changing a sectional area of said fusible part formed in the pressing process.

Claim 9 (original): A fuse belt according to claim 6, wherein inner edges and upper
edges of said pair of flat terminal pieces of each fuse are covered with an insulating housing.

Claim 10 (original): A continuous fuse assembling method using a fuse belt according
to claim 6, wherein said fuses are separated from said coupling part of said fuse belt
successively, and mounted to fuse mounting parts in electric junction boxes, continuously.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A fuse belt of claim 1, wherein said coupling part
interconnects said plurality of fuse elements and wherein removal of said coupling part results in
said fuse elements being physically separated from each other.